

## Army's first PRT opens in Gardez

By Spc. Jim Wagner  
109<sup>th</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**GARDEZ, Afghanistan** — The Army's first Provincial Reconstruction Team held a ribbon-cutting ceremony Feb. 1 to officially open its new storefront office here, providing a secure environment for humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan.

The first of eight test sites throughout the country, the PRTs house members from Civil Affairs, the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division, assorted Special Forces units and support staff, who work behind the scenes to ensure the success of the Civil-Military Operations Centers.

The PRT commander has a three-fold mission: provide a safe environment for humanitarian activities; exchange information between the central government, the Army and non-governmental organizations; and help the Afghan government project its presence outside of Kabul, the nation's capital.

At the CMOC storefront office, Army Civil Affairs specialists and NGOs — ranging from the United Nations Children's Fund to the Red Cross — work with the Afghanistan central government to coordinate humanitarian aid in the region, from rebuilding schools to digging new wells to repaving streets. The facility is a place the three organizations can meet and discuss projects in the area without duplicating their efforts.

Because the Army has never fielded anything like a PRT before, it's being met with some concern from NGOs and

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## QRF keeps Bagram safe



Photo by Pfc. Debralee P. Crankshaw

*A quick reaction team from Company A, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 505<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment, Fort Bragg, N.C., situate themselves and their equipment in their vehicle for a mission.*

Pfc. Debralee P. Crankshaw  
11<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

**BAGRAM, Afghanistan** — Enemy forces pour into the base, seizing all tactical areas.

To ensure this scenario stays fiction, there is the perimeter Quick Reaction Force—a platoon-size element trained to react to a crisis on base.

"We are perimeter security. We are the last line of defense before the enemy is inside the perimeter," said Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Michael Fitzpatrick, platoon sergeant, Company A, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 505<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment, Fort Bragg, N.C. "We react to a breach of security and areas that need to be secured — basically if anything happens on base that needs to be secured or a crisis involving the enemy occurs."

The off-base QRF is a company-size unit, but the mission dictates the size of the force they send out.

This QRF responds to any emergency in the area of operations off base.

"We go out on missions that are time criti-

cal, requiring short-notice support. Sometimes a small unit, on a mission outside the base, will encounter a larger force than they can deal with," said Cpt. Mike McGuire, commander, Company B, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn., 505<sup>th</sup>.

The reaction time for a QRF, after notification, is 15 minutes.

The perimeter QRF goes through rehearsals to ensure they can react well to a situation. These are held when the chain of command believes they are needed, and are performed until the rehearsal is complete and correct.

The off-base QRF also does rehearsals. Two to three are performed every day to keep the soldiers sharp, according to McGuire.

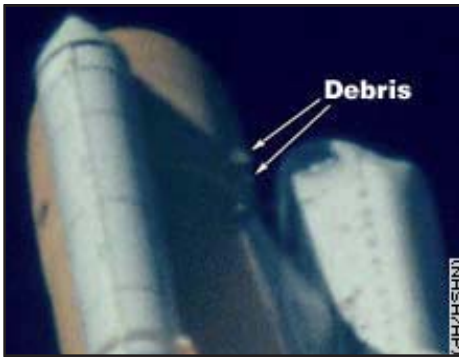
"It took us four to five days to get completely trained up," he added.

The perimeter QRF only needs vehicles to get to the perimeter. The off-base QRF has another key element.

"A key part of the QRF is aviation and air assets. The pilots and helicopters of Task

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# World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



*NASA released images of what appears to be debris hitting Columbia's left side 80 seconds after liftoff Jan. 16.*

## NASA: Greater heating than thought on Columbia

**JOHNSON SPACE CENTER, Texas** — NASA officials revealed on Monday afternoon that the latest data analysis showed that the temperature rose more than previously thought in the left wheel well of the doomed shuttle Columbia.

Sensors in that area of the shuttle gave the first indication that something was wrong on board Columbia.

But space shuttle program manager Ron Dittmore cautioned that even though the temperature increase was greater than previously thought, that did not indicate a breach in the shuttle's structure.

He pointed out that the outside wing temperature at that point of the descent was 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit and the increase in temperature in the area giving the unusual readings increased 30-40 degrees in 5 minutes.

## Powell says he'll offer no 'smoking gun' on Iraq

**WASHINGTON** — Secretary of State Colin Powell said Monday that he will present "no smoking gun" when he addresses the U.N. Security Council this week but will show that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein is not complying with a U.N. resolution to disarm.

Powell is expected to make a one-hour, public presentation Wednesday with photographs and perhaps transcripts of intercepted conversations in an effort to prove senior Iraqi officials have been hiding weap-

ons and evidence of weapon programs from U.N. inspectors.

"While there will be no 'smoking gun,' we will provide evidence concerning the weapons programs that Iraq is working so hard to hide," he said in a commentary published in *The Wall Street Journal*. "We will, in sum, offer a straightforward, sober and compelling demonstration that Saddam is concealing the evidence of his weapons of mass destruction, while preserving the weapons themselves."

U.N. Resolution 1441 calls on Iraq to destroy any chemical, nuclear and biological weapons or face serious consequences. Iraq has consistently denied possessing such weapons.

## U.S. soldier shot in Germany

**BERLIN, Germany** — A U.S. soldier based in Germany was seriously injured when an unknown attacker opened fire on him while he was traveling to work at his army base, local police said.

The 26-year-old was shot in the hand and leg while stopping at a car park near Poppenhausen northwest of Schweinfurt at about 5:30 a.m. on Monday to clear ice from his windscreen. A gunman immediately opened fire, police said.

Despite his injuries the serviceman, who was in civilian clothes, managed to drive his Ford Mustang to a military police station.

"There's nothing to suggest a political or anti-American background to this," a police spokesman told Reuters.

The soldier has since undergone surgery. Police said they had no leads yet on the attackers or the motive. Police are appealing for witnesses.

The shooting took place around about five kilometres (three miles) from the barracks, where the wounded man's unit, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade of the U.S. Army's 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division is stationed.

The soldier's Ford Mustang was carrying U.S. military licence plates that closely resemble German plates, except for small NATO and U.S. symbols. The U.S. military replaced more distinctive plates in 2000 out of concerns for force protection.

A spokesman for the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry confirmed the incident but declined to give any further details, including the soldier's identity.

Police said they would not be able to question him until Tuesday due to the injuries.

## Crucial France, UK talks over Iraq

**LE TOUQUET, France** — French President Jacques Chirac and British Prime Minister Tony Blair will meet Tuesday in the Northern French seaside town of Le Touquet for a summit which could be crucial to U.S.-U.K. hopes of winning wider support for an assault on Iraq if Saddam Hussein does not do more to comply with U.N. resolutions.

Their annual meeting, with a group of ministers on each side, will range over mutual interests in European defense arrangements, education and immigration.

Blair has been U.S. President George W. Bush's biggest supporter in threatening military action against Saddam Hussein. But he faces strong opposition within his own Labour Party to any action undertaken without the blessing of a second, specific U.N. Security Council resolution.

Chirac warned his forces in a New Year message to be "ready for anything".

## Shuttle tragedy prompts new look at NASA budget

**WASHINGTON** — Amid questions over past funding, NASA's budget and its priorities are coming under fresh scrutiny in light of the loss of the space shuttle Columbia and its seven-member crew.

Congressional hearings are planned to investigate both the shuttle tragedy and probe the broader question of funding for the space agency.

"There has been an ignoring and a starving of NASA for funds by the administration, and this isn't a partisan comment" Sen. Bill Nelson, a former astronaut, told CNN Monday. "It goes back to the previous administration. They have delayed as a result of that the safety upgrades to the space shuttle."





Photo by Spc. Jim Wagner, 109<sup>th</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

*From left to right – Dr. Robert P. Finn, U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan; Raz Muhammed Dalili, governor of the Paktia Province; and Shah Mahmood Wat, Afghanistan minister of rural rehabilitation and development, talk to reporters at a press conference following the opening of the Gardez Civil-Military Operations Center.*

## PRT, from Page 1

the international media, who fear an Army presence will give the impression NGOs are working for the U.S. military establishment. Most NGOs are reluctant to openly endorse the PRT concept.

But U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan, Dr. Robert P. Finn, said the PRTs provide a much-needed safety margin in a country that is still a combat zone, which will let

NGOs do their jobs in a more secure environment — not damage the NGOs reputation of neutrality.

“There are ongoing security problems,” he said. “We want to provide a safe platform for other peacetime activities. They’ll see over time that they can work together.”

In the past, there have been cases where NGOs working in remote areas of the country provide aid in the form of food or supplies

to an impoverished village, only to find out warlords have seized the items for their personal use.

“The tribes and central government have also pledged to provide security so NGOs can come here,” said Raz Muhammed Dalili, governor of the Paktia Province, who welcomes the presence of the Army in his region and promised local security support.

“The suspicion between the local people and the central government has lessened because of the coalition PRT. They see that the central government is working to reconstruct their country, and because of the security forces, there is now a sense of security here among the people.”

According to Dalili, the CMOC lets the U.S. government and NGOs coordinate their activities in Paktia Province without having to worry about corrupt people siphoning aid for personal gain.

“We can say with all honesty that any foreign organization can come here and operate safely,” Dalili said.

PRT soldiers have been in Gardez since December, establishing a fire base and conducting ini-

tial village assessments to determine what humanitarian projects warranted immediate action. So far, there are eight projects underway.

The PRT is in place to coordinate and provide security, not supplant NGOs as the primary source for rebuilding Afghanistan or give the impression they’re working for the U.S. Army, according to Maj. David Bernacki, Gardez PRT deputy commander and CMOC commander.

“They’re concerned about neutrality, but the Afghan government wants to coordinate so we don’t duplicate processes. That way, if (the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan) comes out in February and does an assessment and leaves to get permission to fund reconstruction, we don’t come in and do the project while they’re away,” Bernacki said. “It’s just a matter of talking together so we can deconflict”

According to Finn, eight PRTs will open up throughout Afghanistan in 2003. Gardez, the first, will be followed by Bamian in March with the remaining six opening up on successive months.

# Safety sense not always common

Staff Sgt. Christina Bhatti  
11<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

**BAGRAM, Afghanistan** — Safety during a wartime situation is especially important for troops. The U.S. Army Safety Augmentation Detachment is here to not only ensure the safety of troops, but to help in preventing any harmful accidents.

“Safety is common sense,” said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Keith Stilwell. “But common sense is not always common.”

It is the ASAD’s job to identify safety hazards and work with commanders to mitigate those risks, Stilwell said.

The nine-person detachment is composed of soldiers from all over the Army. They are a Forces Command asset that par-

ticipate in extensive training at Fort McPherson, Ga., which consists of a two-week course and correspondence courses on top of that.

“Most of the crew works safety in the civilian sector, so they all have something to add,” Stilwell said.

Stilwell, who is a pilot for the Army holds a Master’s Degree in Aviation Safety. “Making sure civilians and soldiers are safe is my life,” he said

Safety is not a specific job in the Army, but a duty that is open to senior non-commissioned officers, warrant officers and officers higher than captain. FORSCOM is also looking for deployment experience, Stilwell added.

## QRF, from Page 1

Force Tiger are on standby for our missions as well,” said McGuire.

Although they have different missions, both QRFs keep soldiers safe and alive.

“Without a QRF, if a breach in security occurs the base could become combat infected,” said Fitzpatrick.

The perimeter QRF makes sure this doesn’t happen, according to Fitzpatrick.

“Without a QRF, forces would be diverted. No one would be configured and rehearsed for these missions so they wouldn’t respond as quickly,” said McGuire. “When the call comes, we are ready.”

## SAFETY, from Page 3

Since the members of the detachment are not from one specific post or unit, it presents an interesting dynamic.

"We are all Individual Mobilization Augmentees," said Stilwell.

"We receive our deployment orders and show up at the mobilization site." That's the first time the team knows who they are deploying with.

"Even though we all come from around the U.S., we have met before at training. This job is so small, that we all know each other," Stilwell said. There are workshops throughout the year, that provide a way for the soldiers to meet and get to know each other, Stilwell added.

The unit has been in Afghanistan since late October.

The detachment is in charge of all the safety alerts that are posted throughout the air base. Since they have been here, they average two alerts a month, said Stilwell. Some of the alerts are gruesome in nature, but the detachment was to make sure all of the troops get the point.

The detachment also tracks the number of accidents and violations. They work with the first responders to get some of their numbers, but when something does occur; it is the responsibility of the unit to fill out an accident report.

"We want people to understand that we are nonpunitive. We are just here to gather numbers and make sure the same incident doesn't happen again," said Stilwell. "It is the command's responsibility to make sure that we get what we need to prevent anything else from happening. Safety is everyone's job."

To further ensure troops safety, the detachment performs safety inspections with the first responders and force protection. They look for everything from fire hazards to troops not using equipment right.

"We are all part of a team," Stilwell said. "We all want to keep soldiers safe."



## Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building: "American Outlaws." When a Midwest town learns that a corrupt railroad baron has captured the deeds to their homesteads, a group of young ranchers join forces to take back what is theirs. They become the object of the biggest manhunt in the history of the Old West.

Tomorrow's movie will be "The Talented Mr. Ripley."



## Local weather

### TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER REPORT:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Wenesday</i>
<b>Bagram:</b>	Haze H: 50F L: 23F	Haze H: 50F L: 28F
<b>Kandahar:</b>	Mostly cloudy H: 63F L: 37F	Mostly cloudy H: 59F L: 36F
<b>Kabul:</b>	Partly cloudy H: 52F L: 23F	Mostly cloudy H: 48F L: 28F
<b>Uzbekistan:</b>	Partly cloudy H: 69F L: 39F	Scattered showers H: 60F L: 38F

*Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team*

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# Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from ESPN.com)

## Kansas wins 246th game between teams

**LAWRENCE, Kan.** — Kansas coach Roy Williams, never one to gamble, was almost ready to test the odds Monday night.

The Tigers outrebounded Kansas 38-29, had 10 3-pointers while the Jayhawks had just two and forced Kansas point guard Aaron Miles into six turnovers while holding him to a single field goal. Yet the (No. 11 ESPN/USA Today, No. 12 AP) Jayhawks still found a way to beat (No. 22 ESPN/USA Today, No. 21 AP) Missouri 76-70.

"I feel like the luckiest man in town," Williams said. "Never bought a lottery ticket in my life, but maybe I ought to tonight."

The difference was Missouri had 20 turnovers and Kansas just 12 — and Kansas had seniors Nick Collison and Kirk Hinrich.

The 6-foot-9 Collison, working outside as well as near the basket, had 22 points while Hinrich, often running point guard as Miles sat on the bench, had 24 points and eight assists.

"Those seniors decided they didn't want us to lose," Williams said. "They played their tails off."

The Jayhawks (16-5, 6-1 Big 12) also got three key free throws from Michael Lee in the final seconds to win their 15th straight



*Keith Langford and Kansas had their hands full Monday.*

conference home game.

Ricky Clemons had 19 points for the Tigers (13-5, 4-3 Big 12), who have lost 13 in a row to ranked teams on the road. All Missouri's losses this season have come away from home.

"They made some big shots and capitalized on our turnovers," Clemons said.

## Warrick leads Syracuse to win

**SYRACUSE, N.Y.** — Hakim Warrick picked the right time to listen to his coach.

Silent for most of the game, Warrick scored eight points in a 90-second span midway through the second half Monday night to break open a tense struggle and lead Syracuse to an 88-80 win over Georgetown.

Syracuse remained unbeaten in 13 games inside the Carrier Dome. Georgetown lost its fourth straight and fell to 0-6 on the road.

Warrick has received more than his share of shouts from head coach Jim Boeheim this season, and every time the lanky sophomore forward went off for a breather against the Hoyas, his ears were ringing some more.

"He didn't get two loose balls, and that upset me," Boeheim said. "He's too nice of a kid. We need to send him to aggression school."

Maybe not.

After consecutive 3-pointers by Gerald Riley and Tony Bethel gave the Hoyas a 56-55 lead at 12:27, Warrick woke up. Held to just three points through the first 30 minutes, he hit a jumper in the lane at 9:46 to give the Orangemen a 63-57 edge, then converted two three-point plays in a 28-second span to boost the lead to 69-59 with 8:16 left.

"I didn't come to play the first half," said Warrick, who also had seven rebounds. "I knew I was playing bad and wasn't bringing it. I felt like I was letting my team down."

## NCAA Division 1: ESPN/USA Today Coaches Poll



Team	Record
1. Florida	18-2
1. Arizona	16-2
2. Texas	14-3
3. Pittsburgh	15-2
5. Oklahoma	15-3
6. Louisville	16-1
7. Kentucky	16-3
8. Maryland	14-4
9. Duke	14-3
10. Notre Dame	18-3
11. Kansas	15-5
12. Oklahoma State	17-2

Team	Record
13. Creighton	19-2
14. Marquette	15-3
15. Wake Forest	15-2
16. Illinois	15-4
17. Connecticut	13-4
18. Georgia	13-5
19. Xavier	15-4
20. Alabama	13-5
21. Syracuse	14-3
22. Missouri	13-4
23. Oregon	15-5
24. Mississippi State	13-5
25. Purdue	14-4





## SPORTS, from Page 5

There was a reason. The Orangemen were still recovering from Saturday night's scintillating 67-65 victory over Pittsburgh, which dropped the Panthers from second to fourth in the AP Top 25 and moved Syracuse up five spots.

"I couldn't get up because my calves and my hip were so sore from the Pitt game," Warrick said. "I just had to shoot floaters, kind of improvise."

That's exactly what he did to complete his spurt, hitting a stunning underhand scoop past Brandon Bowman along the baseline.

"I just kind of tried to quick spin to keep him off me," Warrick said. "I saw that he was coming over, so I tried to throw up the shot before they tried to call it on the ground. Luckily, it went down."

### No. 1 Gators get immediate test at Kentucky

**ESPN** — Florida, after avoiding the upset bug that latched onto the rest of the top five in the last week, moved into the No. 1 spot in the ESPN/USA Today men's college basketball coaches' poll for the first time in school history.

The Gators' ranking will be challenged almost immediately by

No. 7 Kentucky, on Tuesday night in Lexington.

The Gators (18-2) received 16 of the 31 first-place votes and 753 points Monday, ending Arizona's two-week run at the top. It is Florida's best ranking since reaching No. 2 in January 2002 and finishing there to end the 1999-2000 season. That year, the Gators lost to Michigan State in the national championship game.

Florida made the jump from fourth to first after winning twice last week to match the longest winning streak in school history at 14 games. The Gators made the same move in The Associated Press media poll, receiving 50 of 72 first-place votes and 1,764 points.

"I'm very, very happy for our players and the school," Florida coach Billy Donovan said Monday. "But at the same time, it's a ranking that has been given to us that I don't know if we are deserving of or not."

"There is a lot of basketball left to be played, and we have a big one coming up with Kentucky. We have another big game with Alabama on Saturday following UK. We as a team are still striving to get better. I still believe that we can improve. But as far as the program is concerned, it's a tremendous honor."

Florida is the second member of the SEC to hold the top spot in a poll this season. Alabama was AP's No. 1 before an early-season loss to Utah.

Second-ranked Arizona (16-2), upset by unranked Pac-10 rival Stanford, received eight first-place votes and totaled 14 fewer points than Florida in the coaches' poll.

## Black History Month

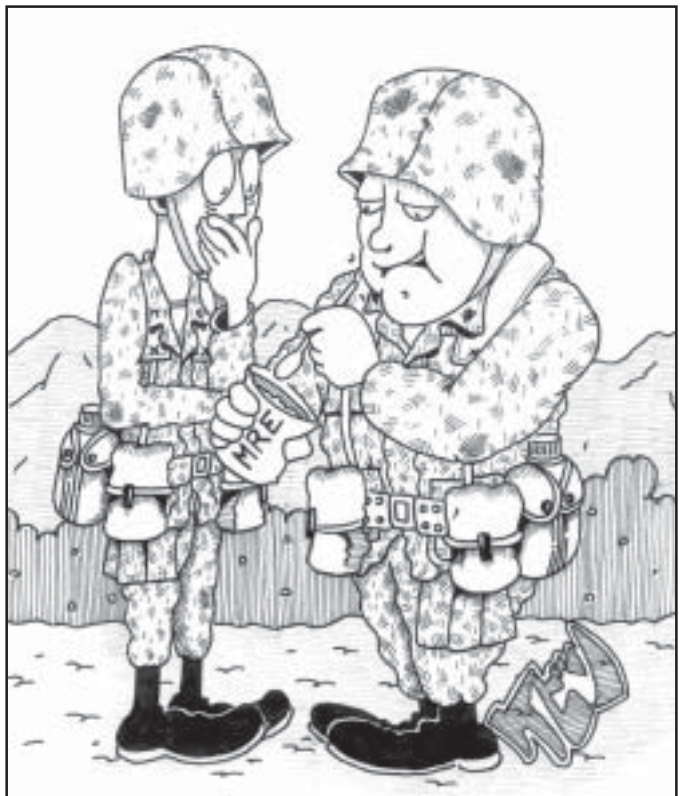
February is Black History Month. In light of all the accomplishments made by African-Americans, every day this month the *Freedom Watch* will highlight an individual.

**Benjamin Banneker:** *mathematician, astronomer, surveyor*; **Born:** 11/9/1731; **Birthplace:** Ellicott's Mills, Md.

Benjamin Banneker has been called the first African American intellectual. Self-taught, after studying the inner workings of a friend's watch, he made one of wood that accurately kept time for more than 40 years. Banneker taught himself astronomy well enough to correctly predict a solar eclipse in 1789. From 1791 to 1802 he published the Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia Almanac and Ephemeris, which contained tide tables, future eclipses, and medicinal formulas. It is believed to be the first scientific book published by an African American. Also a surveyor and mathematician, Banneker was appointed by President George Washington to the District of Columbia Commission, which was responsible for the survey work that established the city's original boundaries. When the chairman of the committee, Pierre Charles L'Enfant, suddenly resigned and left, taking the plans with him, Banneker reproduced the plans from memory, saving valuable time. A staunch opponent of slavery, Banneker sent a copy of his first almanac to then-Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson to counter Jefferson's belief in the intellectual inferiority of blacks.

**Died:** 10/9/1806

**"Ahh, just like mom used to make."**



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By Kevin Kilgore

## Laugh Support